

Steelhead use of tributary streams is likely greater than the distribution depicted on this map. Spawning ground survey efforts in west WRIA 15 and north WRIA 14 are typically conducted during the fall months to count spawning salmon. Steelhead begin entering freshwater in November, but don't spawn until spring. Most survey observations of steelhead have been confined to incidental encounters of adult fish observed in mainstem streams during salmon spawning surveys or juveniles captured in smolt traps. Survey efforts have not occurred during the spring when adult steelhead numbers on tributary spawning grounds would peak. Smolt traps operated on tributary streams in the Dewatto River Watershed consistently captured outmigrating steelhead smolts in streams thought to only produce coho and cutthroat (Lee Boad 2003, personal communication).

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